

# **Statement of Rep. John R. Curtis (UT-03)**

## **Protect our Parks and Public Lands Act**

- Utah is home to 5 National Parks, and I am proud to have some of the Country's most precious and beautiful landscapes in my district. Utahns and all Americans have fallen in love with our parks, almost to their detriment.
- Increased visitation leads to increased maintenance needs. In my district, there is a \$97.76 million deferred maintenance backlog, almost 45% of the State's over \$219 million total public lands backlog.
- As Members of Congress, we are charged with taking care of our federally owned lands. It is clear that we have not been prioritizing good stewardship of the land that we are already responsible for.
- I am proud to cosponsor the Ranking Member's Protect our Parks and Public Lands Act, which is a step in the right direction to address our growing land management needs and I urge the Chairman to help move this bill through Committee.

## **Miracle Mountain**

- Last year, Utah battled the worst wildfire season in recent memory. In September, the Bald Mountain Fire burned nearly 20,000 acres of land, and threatened Utahns in Elk Ridge City in my district. Instead of burning the city, the fire suddenly halted, staying behind the mountain peak, sparing the community and giving them hope.
- Since the fire, the unnamed peak has been referred to as "Miracle Mountain" by many Utahns.
- My bill, the Miracle Mountain Designation Act, would federally recognize the peak as "Miracle Mountain." The bill has wide local support, ranging from my constituents to the Governor's office.
- I'd like to thank Ranking Member Bishop, and the rest of the Utah delegation for cosponsoring this bill and ask that the Chairman consider bringing the Miracle Mountain Designation Act up for a hearing and markup.

## **General Land Management**

- I believe all of us want what is best for our environment and this is a chance for Congress to put partisan differences aside and come together.
- I am committed to solving various public lands challenges in my district and giving all stakeholders a seat at the table as we tackle these difficult problems.